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UNCLAS WELLINGTON 000860

SIPDIS

COMMERCE FOR NWS/ROSENZWEIG

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE TO NIUE FOR NOAA OFFICIAL  
RICHARD K. NYGARD, OCTOBER 25 - OCTOBER 29, 2004

REF: USDOC 4832

1. Embassy grants country clearance to Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service Official Richard K. Nygard to travel to Alofi, Niue, October 25 - 29, 2004. The purpose of travel is to re-establish and install Tsunami Tide System.

2. Embassy understands no assistance is required.

3. Point of contact at Embassy Wellington is Economic officer Joy Yamamoto. Contact details are as follows:

Office: 644-462-6182  
Fax: 644-472-3537  
Cell: 027-446-4467  
E-mail: yamamotojo@state.gov

Security Assessment  
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4. Niue is a free association territory of New Zealand, on which it relies for defense and assistance in meeting low-level security threats. The Embassy is not aware of any specific threats to U.S. facilities or personnel at this time in Niue. Visitors to Niue must exercise appropriate caution and be alert to their surroundings with regard to their personal security. Suspicious incidents/activities should be reported to RSO Wellington (Telephone (64)(4) 462-6000, 24 hours/day).

5. Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the U.S. and the November 2002 terrorist bombing in Bali, there has been concern that terrorists might seek to take advantage of the low level of security maintained in small island states such as Niue in order to target tourists in previously safe destinations. Terrorist actions may include, but are not limited to, suicide operations, bombings, or kidnapping. Possible threats include conventional weapons such as explosive devices or non-conventional weapons, including chemical or biological agents. Terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian targets. Targets may include facilities where Americans and other foreigners congregate or visit, such as residential areas, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, hotels, outdoor recreation events, resorts, and beaches. U.S. citizens should increase their security awareness at such locations, avoid them, or switch to other locations where Americans in large numbers generally do not congregate.

6. As a result of recent military action in Iraq, there is a potential for retaliatory actions to be taken against U.S. citizens and interest throughout the world. Public demonstrations carry the potential for precipitating violence directed at American citizens.

7. U.S. Government facilities worldwide remain at a heightened state of alert and some have drawn down their dependents and/or personnel. These facilities may temporarily close or suspend public services from time to time for security reasons. In those instances, U.S. embassies and consulates will make every effort to provide emergency services to American citizens. Monitor the local news and maintain contact with the nearest American Embassy or U.S. Consulate.

8. Crime: Appropriate common sense precautions should be taken, especially at night, to avoid becoming a target of opportunity.

9. Weather: Severe cyclones present a threat during the hurricane season, which is from November to March.

Burnett